THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Chief Reporter of the Indian Express, Bombay subsequentry expressed regret for impuitations| references drawn in the report. The regret was published on 27-10-1989 in the Indian Express, Bombay edition.

(c) 67 writ petitions, in which Air India is a party, are pending in various courts of this country.

(d) No, Sir. Since writ petitions have been filed against Air India, the Corporation to engage competent legal advisers|lawyers to defend its interest.

Kickbacks in the Airbus deal

1427. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI M.A. BABY:
SHRI ASHIS SEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in he Indian Express, New Delhi of the 15th February, 1990, regarding kickbacks in the Airbus deal; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Salal Hydro Electric Project

1428. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Wiill the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the sanctioned estimated cost of SSalal Hydro Electric Project on the Chenab in March 1970 and now does it compare with the latest overall estimate;

(b) what was the original estimated cost towards the head-'Direction and Administration' of the dam and by what percentage it has increased over the original estimate; and

(c) what is the action plan for arresting the cost escalation and time overruns of such projects and also of the future.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The original sanctioned estimated cost of Salal Hydro-electric Project (Stage-I) was Rs. 55.15 crores (1968 price level), approved in 1970. As per the latest estimates (which are presently under techno-economic scrutiny), the project cost is estimated as Rs. 591.63 crores at June, 1988 price level.

(b) Provision under 'direction and administration' in the original estimated cost was Rs. 3.76 crores, while in the latest revised cost estimates, it is Rs. 33.64 crores, representing an increase of about 759.45 per cent.

(c) For avoiding time over-run in their projects, NHPC have established effective project planning and monitoring system. Also, in order to have effective control over the cost of the projects, cost engineering cells have been set up by NHPC at the corporate office as well as at the projects.